

Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 CCO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SAB-01

SAL-01 SP-02 PM-04 EB-07 DODE-00 DLOS-04 /070 W

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Z O 051622Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7651

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PANAMA 3169

NAIROBI FOR SECRETARY AND ROGERS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, EFIS, PN

SUBJECT: GOP AND U.S. TUNA BOATS

REF: PANAMA 3168

1. IT APPEARS WE HAVE A BREAK THROUGH IN THE QUOTE TUNA WAR UNQUOTE. AS A RESULT OF MY LONG TALK WITH MINISTER BARLETTA LAST NIGHT (REPORTED REFTEL) AND HIS FOLLOW-UP SESSIONS WITH TORRIJOS, PANAMA HAS DECIDED TO BACK AWAY FROM ITS RIGID POSITION. BARLETTA CONTACTED ME THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT GENERAL HAD QUOTE CHANGED HIS MIND UNQUOTE. HE SAID PANAMA HAD DECIDED THAT MATTER COULD BE SETTLED IF TUNA BOAT COMPANIES WOULD PURCHASE LICENSES AT NEWLY ESTABLISHED RATE RATHER THAN THE HERETOFORE DEMANDED SPECIAL LICENSES OF \$100,000 EACH. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS REVISED PAYMENT--ABOUT \$18,000 FOR THE KALI AND \$21,000 FOR THE VOYAGER--WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMPANIES.

2. TORRIJOS ASKED BARLETTA TO TELL ME HE WELCOMED MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT AND THAT QUOTE I CANNOT SAY NO TO ROCKEFELLER UNQUOTE. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO REFER PUBLICLY TO ROCKEFELLER'S ROLE BUT WOULD NOT DO SO IF THAT WAS QUOTE HARMFUL

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UNQUOTE. CLEARLY IT WILL HELP TORRIJOS IN HANDLING A DELICATE,

IF SELF-MADE, PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM HERE. I HAVE ASKED WHITE HOUSE TO CHECK BUT URGED THAT FAVORABLE RESPONSE WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL AT THIS END.

3. PANAMANIAN FISHING AUTHORITIES HAVE JUST SUMMONED SHIPS' AGENTS TO MEETING TO DISCUSS SOLUTION. WE HAVE URGED COMPANIES TO QUOTE BE REASONABLE UNQUOTE AND TO APPROACH POSITIVELY A SOLUTION THAT SEEMS QUITE FAIR AND WILL CERTAINLY AVOID MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR THEIR COUNTRY. I URGE THAT DEPARTMENT USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE COMPANIES AND TUNA ASSOCIATION ALONG SAME LINE. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL, TOO, IN HANDLING PROBLEM OF SOME 19 TUNA BOATS NOW IN CANAL ZONE WATERS QUOTE WAITING TO SEE UNQUOTE IF THEY WOULD FOLLOW SIMILAR COURSE.

JORDEN

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